

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1-7 (canceled).

8. (new): A device for the automatic hauling of very long elongate objects, comprising: traction means able to move translationally and in their movement driving an object that is to be hauled, the drive being achieved by friction,

gripping means for keeping the traction means and the object that is to be hauled continuously in contact, this being achieved over at least a section of the object, and these gripping means being given a relative movement with respect to the hauled object, in a direction opposite to the direction of hauling,

means for actuating the traction means and the gripping means in a coordinated manner the coordination means performing separate functions which collaborate in order to ensure continuous traction on the object that is to be hauled, and good distribution of stress over its surface, the entire device having a stationary position.

9. (new): The device as claimed in claim 8, wherein said traction means comprise two running strips made of a material with good adhesion, these strips coming into contact with the object that is to be hauled.

10. (new): The device as claimed in claim 9, wherein said gripping means comprise a chassis able to move rotationally about the axis of traction of the object, this chassis comprising at least one belt stretched between two pulleys and one of the strands of which is helically wound around the running strips and around the object that is to be hauled so as to keep the running strips and the object that is to be hauled in contact.

11. (new): The device as claimed in claim 10, wherein the relative movement of the gripping means is achieved by rotating the chassis, which causes the belt to wind around the object that is to be hauled and around the running strips via one of its ends, and to unwind simultaneously from the other end.

12. (new): The device as claimed in claim 11, wherein said belt is made up of elastic fibers.

13. (new): The device as claimed in claim 8, wherein said means for actuating the traction means and the gripping means are driven by a hydraulic motor.

14. (new): The device as claimed in claim 8, wherein said means for actuating the traction means and the gripping means are driven by an electric motor.

15. (new): The device as claimed in claim 8, wherein said means for actuating the traction means and the gripping means are driven by means of a cranking handle.

16. (new): The device as claimed in claim 12, wherein said means for actuating the traction means and the gripping means are driven by a hydraulic motor.

17. (new): The device as claimed in claim 12, wherein said means for actuating the traction means and the gripping means are driven by an electric motor.

18. (new): The device as claimed in claim 12, wherein said means for actuating the traction means and the gripping means are driven by means of a cranking handle.